

Department of Marine Resources

NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING PROPOSAL

RULE TITLE OR SUBJECT: Chapter 34(1)(B)(2) Groundfish, Recreational updates with federal rules

CONCISE SUMMARY: The Department proposes for charter/party and private recreational vessels that the minimum size for haddock be reduced to 18 inches from the current minimum size of 19 inches; and to extend the seasonal prohibition on the possession of GOM cod by 2 weeks from March 31 to April 15. This rule would provide for consistency with NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service rulemaking announcement in the [Federal register January 16, 2009](#), which in part becomes effective May 1, 2009.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S.A. §6171

PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled; one may be requested.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: May 15, 2009

To ensure consideration, comments must include your name and the organization you represent, if any. Please be aware that any risk of non-delivery associated with submissions by fax or e-mail is on the sender.

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Bruce Joule (207-633-9500)

Mail Written Comments to: Department of Marine Resources, attn L. Churchill
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WEB SITE: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/>
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TEL.: (207) 633-9584 **FAX:** (207) 633-9579 **TTY:** (207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing) **Hearing facilities:** If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Amanda Beckwith, at (207) 287-7578.

Additional information:

This proposed rule would apply to recreational groundfish fishermen in the Gulf of Maine.

The entire Chapter 34 is available at the following web address:

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/13/188/188c034.doc>

For additional information about the federal rulemaking activity select:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/multipir/>

Proposed rulemaking – see underlined or ~~deleted~~ text below:

34.10 Maine Groundfish Management Plan

1. Groundfish Management Plan

B. Size, Possession and Gear Restrictions

(2) Recreational - size, possession and gear restrictions

- (a) Persons aboard charter, party and recreational fishing vessels are subject to the following minimum fish sizes:

Minimum Fish Sizes (TL)	
Species	Size Inches (cm)
Cod.....	24 (63.7 cm)
Haddock.....	<u>18 (45.7 cm)</u> 19 (48.3 cm)
Pollock.....	19 (48.3 cm)
Witch Flounder (gray sole).....	14 (35.6 cm)
Yellowtail Flounder.....	13 (33.0 cm)
American plaice (dab).....	14 (35.6 cm)
Atlantic halibut.....	38 (96.5 cm)
Winter Flounder (blackback).....	12 (30.5 cm)
Redfish.....	9 (22.9 cm)
Summer Flounder.....	20 (50.8)

(c) Possession restrictions

- (iv) Cod may not be possessed on board a charter, party or recreational fishing vessel from November 1 through March 31 ~~April 15~~, inclusive.